

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 /059 W
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R 050615Z UN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3008

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TC, US

SUBJ: ZAYID CRITICIZES SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS

1. UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID IN INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN DAILY AL-AHRAM, ALSO CARRIED IN MAY 30 EDITION LOCAL PRESS HERE, EXPRESSED HIS "DISGUST" CONCERNING SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S RECENT STATEMENTS RE POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION IN EVENT ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO. ZAYID SAID THAT IF SECRETARY THOUGHT HE WOULD THUS CAUSE SPLIT AMONG ARAB RANKS, HE WAS MISREADING SITUATION--ARABS WOULD INEVITABLY CLOSE RANKS IN FACE EXTERNAL THREAT.

2. ONLY OTHER POINT OF PARTICULAR NOTE IN INTERVIEW WAS ZAYID'S ENDORSEMENT OF GULF SUMMIT MEETING. HE SAID THAT HE HAD EARLIER CALLED FOR SUCH A MEETING AND NOW, IN VIEW OF IRAN-IRAQ ACCORD, HE WELCOMED SUGGESTIONS OF WIDER GATHERING INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN AND IRAQ. ZAYID DID NOT, HOWEVER, INDICATE WHEN HE THOUGHT SUCH CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PLACE.

3. COMMENT: ON "MILITARY INTERVENTION" ISSUE, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS WERE FORTUNATELY FOLLOWED SOON ENOUGH BY PRESIDENT'S WELL-

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CONSIDERED REPAIR WORK TO DEFUSE ISSUE HERE. IN INTERVAL BETWEEN TWO, ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL PROTEST OR QUERY WAS MADE TO US BY UAEG, SEVERAL FRIENDLY ARAB DIPLOMATS TOLD US THAT BOTH SHAIKH ZAYID AND KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE (WHO HAPPENED TO BE VISITING HERE AT TIME), WERE "APPALLED". WE HAVE SINCE PROVIDED TEXTS OF BOTH STATEMENTS TO PALACE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER.

ALSO, SINCE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, LOCAL PRESS HAS DROPPED ISSUE. WE ASSUME ZAYID'S STRONG-WORDED STATEMENT IN AL-AHRAM AT THIS LATE DATE MAINLY REFLECTS FACT HE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED IN CAIRO RATHER THAN FOR LOCAL PRESS.
STERNER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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